

To: Members of the Appropriations Committee

From: Llyn Kaimowitz, 27 Stoneham Drive, West Hartford, CT 06117  
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Re: Opposition to a raid on Community Investment Act Funds (Bill 828, Sec 1w)

Date: 17 February 2009

## What's more important than Food?

**I worry about my family's food supply.** I worry about e-coli, food shortages from western droughts, salmonella, melamine, hurricane damage, banned pesticides used on imported produce, and oil prices driving up transport costs. **The smart way to make sure that families like mine can buy safe, reliable food is to increase the number of local places that it's produced.**

Connecticut has some great soils and a good climate. We have wonderful, dedicated farmers who feel that farming is their "calling." They WANT to keep farming but find it hard because of increasing costs. Rising land prices, fed by continual development, are also forcing farmland taxes to go up.

**Give the farmers the break they need – that we consumers need, too – by keeping the Community Investment Act intact.** Protecting farms with the CIA will allow farmers to keep farming without being forced to sell by giving them cash to meet expenses. It will also allow new farmers to set up farming, on protected farms, without being forced to beat out the developers for land at sky-high prices.

## Without the Community Investment Act funds for farmland protection, there will be no future farms – young farmers won't be able to afford farms here!

**And that leaves mothers like me worrying about a safe, healthy, local food supply.**

Give Connecticut families the ability to get local, safe foods that haven't been sprayed with infected wastes, picked while green and treated with gasses and colorants, or abused in cages and shot full of antibiotics and hormones, transported over thousands of miles, finally landing on store shelves a couple months later. That's not my idea of safe, healthy food! We deserve better.

You can give Connecticut future access to the food we need by **preserving the Community Investment Act intact.** The farmers will take it from there. Thank you very much.